

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5979

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN PFOR GH

SUBJ: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH

REF: (A) ACCRA 7033; (B) ACCRA 7085

1. GHANAIAAN TIMES JAN 2 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE REPORT BLAY-MIEZAH HAS SET UP OMAN GHANA TRUST HOLDINGS LTD TO BE "MAIN INSTRUMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 86-MILLION-DOLLAR PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN WESTERN REGION BETWEEN THIS YEAR AND 1985." PAPER ALSO DISPLAYS SEVERAL PHOTOGRAPHS ON INSIDE PICTURE PAGE. DAILY GRAPHIC DOES NOT CARRY STORY.

2. COMPANY CAPITALIZED AT CEDIS 1.5 MILLION WITH CEDIS 250,000 TO BE ISSUED NOW, PRESUMABLY TO TRUST, AS THERE IS NO INDICATION PUBLIC SALE CONTEMPLATED.

3. DIRECTORS IN ADDITION BLAY-MIEZAH ARE THREE WESTERN REGION CHIEFS. AMOAKA-ATTA CARRIED AS "HONORARY FINANCIAL ADVISER." EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS MARY LOU VILENTE, OF WHOM EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD. LEGAL CONSULTANT IS K. OSEI, OF WHOM WE ALSO HAVE NO RECORD.

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4. ONE PHOTOGRAPH (OF NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY GIVEN BY BLAY-MIEZAH)

INCLUDES NOE DREVICI AND HIS WIFE ULA, DESCRIBED AS "FINANCIAL TYCOON" AND APPARENTLY NOT FORMALLY CONNECTED WITH NEW COMPANY, DREVICI HAS RECORD IN GHANA DATING BACK TO NKRUMAH PERIOD. AT ONE POINT IN 1965, HE WAS DESCRIBED IN EMBASSY TELEGRAM AS "BIGGEST CONFIDENCE MAN YET TO CAPTURE NKRUMAH'S FANCY." HE WAS EXPELLED FROM GHANA IN 1970 BY BUSIA REGIME AND A NUMBER OF CONTRACTS HE HAD OBTAINED FOR TEMA COMPLEX CANCELED. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF HIS ACTIVITIES DURING DEBT NEGOTIATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS RETURN TO GHANA.

5. MEANWHILE, GOG HAS DROPPED CHARGE REPORTED REFTEL B. APPARENTLY PROSECUTION SAW CASE AS WEAK, AS BLAY-MIEZAH HAD BEEN ISSUED PASSPORTS AND WAS CLEARLY AVAILABLE FOR ARREST FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE ACTUALLY BEING PICKED UP.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT REQUESTED IN REFTEL A, PARAGRAPH 8.

7. THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS GOG BACKING OFF CASE, AS THOSE WHO BELIEVE BLAY-MIEZAH A FRAUD ARE WORRIED HE MIGHT JUST HAVE THE MONEY AND THEN THEY WOULD LOOK EXTREMELY FOOLISH. ACHEAMPONG APPARENTLY STILL BELIEVES STORY, AND CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION PATTERN OF BLAY-MIEZAH LENDS CREDENCE TO REPORTS HE HAS (OR HAS ACCESS TO) SIZABLE BUNDLE OF CASH. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, WE ALSO SENSE BASE IS BEING BUILT BY HIS SUPPORTERS FOR ACCUSATION "SABOTEURS" (READ "AMERICANS") HAVE UNDERMINED HIS EFFORTS OBTAIN SUM DUE HIM AND WHICH HE WANTS TO USE FOR GOOD OF GHANA.

8. IN SUM, WE WILL NEED FACTS ON HAND TO COUNTER PRESS STORIES IF AND WHEN SUCH ARE PUBLISHED.
BLACK

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